

## 2012 BRULE RIVER FALL FISHWAY UPDATE

A total of 10,653 trout and salmon were counted passing the lamprey barrier/fishway during the upstream salmonid migration monitoring period July 1 through November 26, 2012. The counts for all species exceeded those of 2011 (see table, below). In a very general perspective, the number of steelhead slightly exceeded the 10-year average of the 1990s and was nearly 33% less than the 10-year average of the 2000s.

Year	Brown Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead (Fall)	Steelhead (Spring)	Steelhead Total	Estimated Stocked Steelhead
2008-09	2890	248	2197	6640	1096	7736	137
2009-10	2809	85	1172	8130	761	8891	96
2010-11	3090	109	1272	6488	1584	8072	0
2011-12	2969	208	1132	2933	1739	4672	0
2012-13	3656	332	2060	4594	--	--	--

Brown trout peaked during the last week of July (Graph A). This was earlier than most years, and it occurred a couple of days after river flow began to recede following a rain event. Brown trout also slightly increased during the third week of October, which coincided with the warmest average daily water temperatures (between 48° and 49° F) during that time. In contrast to brown trout, coho salmon and steelhead peaked later than in previous years. Coho salmon peaked during the last week of October (Graph B) and steelhead peaked during the third week of October (Graph C). The overall run dramatically slowed during the week of October 28 when water temperatures dropped below 41° F and flows began to recede from 158 cfs at the Brule Ranger Station. Fall migrants also included 332 Chinook salmon, nine pink salmon, and two splake.

